

I respect Sinclair Broadcasting's support for the Bush candidacy, but I find it totally unacceptable that they are able to hijack local stations regularly scheduled programming to present "Stolen Honor", a privately produced Kerry smear ad, as if it were a breaking news report.

Similar to the "Swift boat" ads which the facts have subsequently shown to be misleading, it seems that this program is a cynical move by a large corporation to use our public airwaves to promote their own political interests. This is very confusing to people and seems to contradict our American ideals of what a "free" media should be about.

While I do not favor excessive regulation of any single industry, I do feel that corporate interests have been taking precedence over public interest where some privately-owned news mediate groups are concerned. The fact that they continue unchecked seems to be encouraging this situation.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to either strengthen media ownership rules or consider other alternatives to keep us from slipping into a situation similar to the one now found in Russia where a narrow perspective is presented within their "news" industry.

Regardless, the license renewal process must hold corporations accountable for abusing their access to our public air-waves. Thank you.